

Appl. No. 08/951,832  
Amdt dated November 3, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 7, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 2 8 wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said canister is removably received in a recess in the housing.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into an interior portion of said porous pad.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 5 wherein said pad comprises a polymer foam having interconnecting cells.

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**Claim 7 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said foam is a polyether reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.**

**Claim 8 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:**

**a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;**

**a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;**

**a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;**

**a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;**

**at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump; and**

**an elastomeric film dressing for securing said porous pad within said sealable space, wherein said dressing is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive.**

**Claim 9 (canceled).**

**Claim 10 (canceled).**

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**Claim 11 (canceled).**

**Claim 12 (canceled).**

**Claim 13 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:**

**a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;**

**a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;**

**a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit;**

**a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound, said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;**

**a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;**

**a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;**

**said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;**

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a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 4 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor being arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 4 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting variance greater than a predetermined angle of said canister's vertical axis.

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**Claim 19 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said predetermined angle is approximately 45°.**

**Claim 20 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sensor comprises a tilt sensor, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said canister greater than said predetermined angle is detected.**

**Claim 21 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 20 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure ~~resultant resulting from~~ detection of tilting of said canister.**

**Claim 22 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.**

**Claim 23 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.**

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**Claim 24 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 13 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.**

**Claim 25 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 13 further comprising a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.**

**Claim 26 (canceled).**